

MURRAY HALL

A female Tammany Hall political figure, who people believed was a male



Murray Hall was a Tammany Hall political figure, member of the Iroquois Club, and city bail bondsman who had an active behind-the-scenes role in 19th century New York politics. Hall played a formidable role in primary and general elections as a registered and active voter whose opinion could sway political influence within the Tammany Hall

inner circle. Senator Bernard F. Martin noted that Hall was “at the polls every election day, voted once anyway, as they say, and helped get out the vote.” Known as a “man about town,” it was not uncommon to find Hall socially engaging and card-playing with prominent politicians, often securing political appointments for close friends.

Realization that Hall was born biologically as a woman, named Mary Anderson, did not come until Hall’s death in 1901 from untreated breast cancer. Mary Anderson was born in Scotland and began dressing as a male at the age of 16 and took the name John Anderson. As a young adult, Anderson fled Scotland for America and took the name of Murray Hall. According to the NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project, Hall was an early instance of gender nonconforming in New York and has since attracted worldwide attention.